

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Committee Pondered Dodd Ouster

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meeting behind closed doors last week, debated whether to throw Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.) off the committee.

Basis for the debate was the fact that Dodd had conspired with Gen. Julius Klein, a registered agent for West German interests, during the Senate committee's investigation of Klein in 1964. At that time Dodd did not reveal to his own committee the full facts regarding his relationship with Klein.

Sen. Fulbright cited precedents dating back to the Civil War when members of the Senate committees were ousted, but the committee finally decided that since Dodd was under investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee would not move against him for the time being.

Note: The Senate Ethics Committee, headed by John Stennis (D-Miss.) has started to turn the investigation around to a probe of where Jack Anderson got the damning documents regarding Dodd's extra curricular activities. This switch in investigative tactics follows the usual Senate line of protecting the sanctity of the "club," the line followed regarding Senators

involved in the Bobby Baker case.

Secret Cablegram

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee might want to investigate further the operation of Sen. Dodd in the Congo in 1961 when he acted in cooperation with another foreign agent, Michel Struelens.

Struelens represented the break-away province of Katanga and was at that time bent on upsetting the Kennedy policy of supporting President Adoula and trying to keep the Congo together. Foreign agent Struelens was working with break-away President Tshombe of Katanga and Sen. Dodd was helping him.

A secret cablegram which Struelens sent to Tshombe on Dec. 17, 1961, at the height of the Katanga controversy, tells part of the story. I can supply the Senate committee with a copy. The important parts read:

"United States excited about Katanga affair. Dodd will make Senatorial declaration Monday and first debates Senate.

"Violent criticism by Congress of State Department policy can be expected.

"Very important president (Tshombe) ask if at meeting with Adoula, Dodd be present, for he can say U.S. Ambassador Leopoldville (Edward Gullion) took position in

conflict which is not neutral but in favor Adoula.

"Do not attack Gullion head on, but make understand he is no longer neutral after anti-Tshombe position in radio and TV broadcasts in United States . . .

"Dodd asks to be present if Gullion should negotiate cease fire . . ."

This is a complicated cablegram dealing with complicated African politics. But it is not complicated when it boils down to the position of a Senator and whether or not he represents the United States or a foreign government opposed by the United States . . .

In 1961, President Kennedy had taken a firm position that the Congo must be unified and that the United States would support President Adoula for unification, Kennedy believed that Katanga, the largest copper-cobalt producer in the world with an \$85 million a year income from royalties, must remain part of the Congo. Otherwise the Congo would be bankrupt.

Despite this, Sen. Dodd went to the Congo in 1961 under his authority as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he so convinced President Tshombe of Katanga that the State Department was influenced by Communists that Ambassador Gullion telephoned President Kennedy in Washington that Tshombe would no longer meet with him.

Dodd also toured Katanga in an automobile with Tshombe, giving the public the impression that the United States was fully backing the man whom the United States was in fact opposing.

Ghostwritten Speech

Returning, the Senator made a full-dress speech on the Senate floor. Significantly, the full text of the speech was released in Elisabethville, the capital of Katanga, a few hours before delivery in the Senate.

It was also reported at the time that agent Struelens had flown a copy of the speech down to Dodd from New York shortly before Dodd delivered it. Struelens at that time was spending around \$100,000 a month for Katanga propaganda in the United States.

Later when President Johnson, Dodd's close friend, entered the White House, the Kennedy policy was reversed, and the United States supported Tshombe, who by this time had left Katanga, and was being brought back as head of the entire Congo. The question which the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will have to decide is not whether Tshombe was the right man to run the Congo but whether a member of its committee was ethical in acting as the spokesman for a foreign agent, especially one bitterly opposed to the then policy of the late President.

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